

A RESOLUTION memorializing the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to restore to the people the right of free religious expression, including the right to allow prayer, religious study and religious expression in public schools and other public assemblies, and to submit such constitutional amendment to the several states for proper ratification.

WHEREAS, the founders of our nation appended to the Constitution of the United States ten amendments commonly known as the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances; and

WHEREAS, the Ninth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States provides that "The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people; and

WHEREAS, the clear and express intent of the framers of the Constitution was to prevent the Federal Government from interfering with the right of the people to freely exercise and express their religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, for more than one hundred and fifty years the people, acting through their state and local governments, enjoyed the freedom to provide for prayer and religious expression in their schools and public assemblies; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the 1960's, the United States Supreme Court has issued a series of rulings that have systematically stripped from the people their historic and

constitutionally guaranteed right to provide for prayer, religious study and religious expression in schools and public assemblies; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Congress of the United States has failed or refused to restore to the people their right to provide for prayer, religious study and religious expression in schools and public assemblies; and

WHEREAS, it is now time for the citizens of this nation to reclaim and reassert our First Amendment rights which constitutionally guarantee our freedom of religion and freedom of religious expression; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That this General Assembly hereby memorializes the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to restore to the American people the right to free religious expression, including the right to allow non-sectarian prayer, religious study and religious expression in public schools and other public assemblies, and to submit such constitutional amendment to the several states for proper ratification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate; and to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.

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